

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING CALEB WILFONG

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Caleb Wilfong of the Rock Bridge High School Bruins Boys Cross Country team for winning the individual Class 4 Missouri State Championship.

Mr. Wilfong should be commended for all of his hard work throughout the regular season and bringing home the individual state title to his school, family and community. At the State Cross Country Championships in Jefferson City, Caleb won the individual state title with a time of 15 minutes 54.13 seconds. He holds Rock Bridge's school record for a 3.1-mile race and is the school's second individual cross country champion.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Caleb Wilfong for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF DR. BOB CURRY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the long and distinguished career of Dr. Robert Curry. Dr. Curry, a prominent professor of hydrology and geology at both the University of California at Santa Cruz and California State University at Monterey Bay, has spent his entire professional life teaching generations of students how human activity can change the earth's surface. He has also spent countless hours, many without pay, working for conservation organizations on issues ranging from soil conservation, wetland preservation, water quality, to endangered species protection. Dr. Curry is truly a modern renaissance man. He has mastered many disciplines, including hydrology, geology, fluvial geomorphology, climatic history, wetland delineation, forest ecology, and geologic hazard evaluation. It is important we honor his vision, dedication, and tenacity in doing as much as humanly possible to protect the natural environment from unnecessary harm.

Dr. Curry is a native Californian, raised in the Sierra Nevada area of eastern California where both sets of grandparents instilled in him a love of natural history, hiking and camping. Dr. Curry and his three younger siblings, Barbara, Judy, and Joe as well as aunts, uncles and many cousins have deep roots in the land. He ultimately completed his doctoral dissertation on the climatic history of the Sierra Nevada and his parents are now buried at high elevation in what is now a Wilderness Area.

Dr. Curry studied at the undergraduate and masters level at the University of Colorado. He

later earned a Ph.D in Geology and Geophysics at UC Berkeley, where he helped draft California's Forest Practices Act. Dr. Curry subsequently taught for over 45 years, beginning at UC Santa Barbara. He later served as Provost and professor at UC Santa Cruz before joining the California State University Monterey Bay faculty where he created the Watershed Science curriculum.

Perhaps his most significant contribution was the cooperative authorship of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act. In 1969, Dr. Curry served as the initial science advisor to the U.S. Senate Public Works Committee following its review of the Santa Barbara Oil Spill. Working with Senator Ed Muskie, chairman of the Air and Water Pollution Subcommittee who was drafting the National Environmental Policy Act, Dr. Curry's work led to the clause that says if public funds are used to develop information about projects of national interest that could guide public policy, the information must be released to the public. This became the basis for the Environmental Impact Statement, which has served the public by bringing transparency to the policy process.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in honoring the career of this remarkable scientist and conservation leader. California, and indeed the world, are better for his efforts.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHERIDAN FIRE CHIEF JEFFREY D. ROBERTS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the death and celebrate the life of Sheridan Fire Chief Jeffrey D. Roberts.

Chief Roberts had served as an officer in the 45-member volunteer fire department for the past six years, and two years ago was elected chief. In addition to his fire service, Chief Roberts served Chautauqua County taxpayers as a member of the Chautauqua County Department of Public Works.

A devoted husband and father, Chief Roberts leaves behind his wife Katie and children, Alexis and Berkley. A tremendously well-liked and well-respected leader in our volunteer fire corps in Western New York, Chief Roberts' untimely passing is indeed a tragedy, and the entire Western New York community joins with Katie, Alexis and Berkley in mourning the Chief's death.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness, but also with pride that I ask you, and all of the members of the House, to join with me in celebrating the life of Chief Jeffrey Roberts, and to join with his family in remembering him as a dedicated and fearless public servant, and a proud member of our Western New York community.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE A. SOLBERG, MD, PHD, FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE FIELD OF HEMATOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. Lawrence A. Solberg, a Floridian who has dedicated his professional life to biomedical research and medicine.

Having published numerous articles in various publications and scientific journals and received professional recognition and honors from a number of organizations, Dr. Solberg has accomplished an extraordinary number of professional milestones and achievements.

Dr. Solberg is a hematologist currently in the Division of Hematology-Oncology at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the Research Operations Management Team and Chair of the Clinical Research Subcommittee of the Mayo Clinic in Florida. Dr. Solberg previously served as Director of the Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program of the Mayo Clinic in Florida. As Professor of Medicine in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Dr. Solberg has shown great commitment to educating our next generation of physicians and researchers, while continuing treatment of patients and his own research.

Service to the greater community is another attribute of Dr. Solberg's career. This is reflected in his service as Chair of the Board of Directors of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida for six years. Community Hospice of Northeast Florida is one of the largest non-profit hospices in the United States operating in 5 counties and serving up to 1000 patients, including 100 children, every day.

For the past four years, Dr. Solberg has chaired the Committee on Practice of the American Society of Hematology and has led the Society's efforts to educate Members of Congress about hematology and issues of concern to practitioners, such as Medicare physician payment, reimbursement of chemotherapy drugs, and the importance of clinical trials. In this capacity, Dr. Solberg has visited with me and my staff to educate us about the critical issues facing hematologists and patients in Florida and throughout the United States. Dr. Solberg has advised the Food & Drug Administration about how to address the current shortages of life-saving drugs; and has served on both public and private sector panels addressing how to improve the quality of care for patients.

Dr. Solberg is a superb advocate for his patients and his profession and his work has helped enhance the health and wellbeing of Floridians and all Americans. I am grateful for his lifetime contribution to field and practice of hematology.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JASON M. WOOD, UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served this great Nation with honor, men such as Lieutenant Commander Jason M. Wood, United States Navy.

For the past year, Lieutenant Commander Wood served on my staff as a Congressional Defense Fellow. During his assignment, he served as a senior member of my staff responsible for defense, veterans, foreign affairs and intelligence matters. Lieutenant Commander Wood executed his work as a liaison to the constituents of the First District and the numerous defense installations in the First District with distinction. Furthermore, he provided exceptional support to me as my staff liaison to the House Armed Services Committee in my role as a Subcommittee Chairman and the Co-Chair of the Congressional Shipbuilding Caucus.

Lieutenant Commander Wood directly contributed to my goal of providing excellent constituent service to the people of the First District. He was responsible for bringing numerous constituent inquiries to a successful conclusion and he was able to leverage his personal and operational experience to respond to the most challenging inquiries.

In addition to his efforts on behalf of the First District, Lieutenant Commander Wood took on projects with regional, state and national implications, demonstrating his ability to view a challenge from many angles and develop innovative solutions often requiring collaboration across many levels of government.

Lieutenant Commander Wood's work ethic, duty to mission, and commitment to servant leadership is without equal. I believe that his personal drive to achieve excellence in his work has and will set a very high standard for his peers.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Commander Wood and his beautiful young family for the service and sacrifice they make for our nation and our great Navy. His keen sense of honor, impeccable integrity, boundless work ethic, and loyal devotion to duty earned him the respect and admiration of my staff and the 1st District of Virginia. After spending eight of the last ten years stationed in Hawaii, which included three combat deployments to Afghanistan and a 12 month deployment to Bahrain, Lieutenant Commander Wood is headed to the N88 staff at the Pentagon. After that tour Lieutenant Commander Wood will return to the sky and to leading Sailors as he goes back in to harm's way to execute his trade as Naval Aviator. I have no doubt that Lieutenant Commander Wood will continue to serve the United States Navy honorably and with distinction.

I wish him the best of luck as he continues his Naval career. It was an honor and a pleasure having him serve on my staff. We all can sleep soundly at night knowing that men and women like Lieutenant Commander Jason Wood are members of our all-volunteer force and they stand ready to defend our country and take the fight to our enemies; far away

from their families and the comforts of the United States of America.

Lieutenant Commander Wood, thank you. Best of luck to you and God bless you, your family, and your fellow men and women in uniform.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF OWENSVILLE ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Owensville, located in Gasconade County in Missouri, as the community celebrates its centennial anniversary this year.

What is now the City of Owensville began as an early trail called the Potosi to Boonslick Trail. Spurs from this main trail went to the current city, creating a crossroads that later became the St. Louis to Springfield Road and the St. James to Hermann Road called the "Iron Road."

The city was originally laid out in 1886 by the Owensville Improvement Company, whose owner, Francis Owen, is the town's namesake. Owensville was named from the horseshoe contest in 1847 by Francis Owen and Edward Luster. The contest was won by Mr. Luster, but he did not want the town named Lusterville, and, therefore, it was named "Owen'sville" in honor of his friend. Later it was condensed to Owensville. Owensville residents believe their city is the only place named as a result of a horseshoe pitching contest. Owensville was incorporated as a fourth-class city on May 27, 1911.

Over the past century, industries such as a corn cob pipe factory, a tomato cannery, shoe factories and clay mining supported the town. Today, the RR Donnelly printing company and Emhart Glass Manufacturing are located there. Owensville is a thriving town and a proud community of more than 2,500 residents.

In closing, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the residents of the City of Owensville congratulations on their centennial anniversary.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CASE OF LOUIS R. HARPER, ET. AL. V. MAYOR AND CITY OF BALTIMORE, ET. AL.

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the case of Louis R. Harper, et. al. v. Mayor and City of Baltimore, et. al. This lawsuit, filed on December 6, 1971, to address discrimination within the Baltimore City Fire Department, BCFD, was the first federal lawsuit to combat discriminatory practices in hiring and promotion decisions in the public safety profession.

The BCFD hired its first African American fire fighters on October 15, 1953, from a group

of 41 men found eligible for appointment after the opportunity for them to take the entrance exam was opened in the summer of 1952. Almost 20 years later, one of those pioneering men became the architect behind the scenes of the legal action filed in 1971.

Mr. Charles R. Thomas was the founding president of the Vulcan Blazers Incorporated, the Baltimore City Chapter of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters. Mr. Thomas approached Kenneth L. Johnson of the Johnson & Smith law firm asking if he would take on this monumental case. After hearing the facts of the case, Mr. Johnson and his law partner, Mr. Gerald A. Smith, agreed to take the case.

The named plaintiff in the case was Mr. Louis R. Harper, Jr. It was his bravery and selflessness that led the team of plaintiffs, including Mr. Thomas G. Deshields, Mr. Carl E. McDonald, and Mr. Alphonso Thornton. These BCFD members put their careers at risk to demand that the BCFD treat all employees equally.

This case addressed discrimination in the BCFD entrance examination and promotional practices. At the time of the lawsuit, the names of fully qualified African American candidates were marked in red by the civil service commission before being sent to the BCFD. The lawsuit also dealt with disparity in the Department's practices for disciplining African American fire fighters.

Upon the filing of the case, an injunction was issued to halt promotions into 44 newly created battalion chief positions. Finally, in the spring of 1973, Baltimore City was found guilty of discrimination in the management of the BCFD. Federal District Court Judge Joseph H. Young ordered a complete revamping of the Department's entrance examination and promotional procedures.

Since this lawsuit was concluded, the BCFD has appointed an African American Fire Chief and promoted several officers to all ranks as high as assistant chief.

Critically, the BCFD case win was just the beginning of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Smith's mission to eradicate discrimination from the public safety profession all along the east coast. This team went on to win fire department cases in Philadelphia, PA and Richmond, VA. They also won cases for African American Baltimore City Police Officers and workers at Bethlehem Steel.

As I close, I also celebrate the remarkable careers of those involved in this groundbreaking case.

The named plaintiff in the case, Mr. Louis R. Harper, Jr., became the first African American to be promoted to Captain in the Baltimore City Fire Department. The other named plaintiffs all retired with the rank of Captain with the exception of Mr. Carl McDonald, who retired as Assistant Chief.

Mr. Kenneth Johnson has retired from the position of Judge on Baltimore's Supreme Bench. Mr. Gerald A. Smith still practices law from his office in the Baltimore area.

These men are true heroes who opened the doors of opportunity to subsequent generations. I thank them for their service to Baltimore and to our nation—and for their willingness to lead the fight against injustice.